



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR RECEIPT OF EXPLOSIVES WITH INTENT TO KILL, INJURE OR CAUSE DAMAGE

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; THOMAS N. KASZA, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **MICHAEL J. BREIT**, 21 (DOB: 2/03/84), formerly of 3012 Sunnyside Dr., #6, Rockford, to 41 months in federal prison for receipt of explosives with the intent to kill, injure, or cause damage. Breit will not be eligible for parole. The court also ordered Breit to serve three years of supervised release following his release from prison.

Breit was convicted on November 5, 2004, following a five-day federal jury trial. Evidence presented at trial established that between October 18, 2003 and April 18, 2004, Breit unlawfully purchased explosives, namely black powder and smokeless black powder, at a local gun store, and intended to use the powders to illegally manufacture pipe bombs. The evidence reflected that once the pipe bombs were manufactured, Breit intended to use them to cause property damage and/or to kill or injure other individuals. Specifically, Breit told investigators he intended to use pipe bombs like hand grenades to immobilize police squad cars.

The case was investigated by the Rockford offices of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Monica V. Mallory.

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